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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/510,977	10/13/2004	Masaaki Yamauchi	2004_1445A	6157

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WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK L.L.P.
2033 K. STREET, NW
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER	
TRAN, THUY V	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2821	

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/510,977	YAMAUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thuy V. Tran	2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *03* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *amendment &response filed 11/08/2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *9 and 10* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *9 and 10* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *13 October 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is responsive to the Applicants' amendment and response to restriction requirement submitted on November 08, 2006. In virtue of this amendment and response, the Invention of Group II including claims 9-10 has been elected, and the Invention Group I including claims 7-8 has been cancelled. Note that claims 1-6 were canceled prior to the election/restrictions requirement.

For convenience in review, a part of the Election/Restrictions Requirement mailed 10/30/2006 is transferred hereto:

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claims 7-8, drawn to a method of manufacturing a plasma display panel.

Group II, claims 9-10, drawn to a method of aging or using a plasma display panel.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: In the instant case, the different inventions Group I and Group II are not being used together since one is directed to ways of manufacturing or making the product of display plasma panel while another is directed to ways of using or aging it, and furthermore, such two Groups of inventions I and II have disparate designs, modes of

operation, and effects: forming the plasma display panel (while the display panel is not yet completed), and aging or using the plasma display panel (while the display panel has been already completed).

3. Several telephone calls were made to Mr. Jonathan R. Bowser on 10/20/2006 and 10/25/2006 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made. On 10/25/2006, Mr. Jonathan R. Bowser called in and left a message in that he advised the Examiner to issue "a written election/restrictions requirement" for this particular application.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the

currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Response to Restriction/Election filed 11/08/2006

5. Applicants' election of the Invention Group II including claims 9-10 in the reply filed on 11/08/2006 is acknowledged. Because applicants did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> *A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –*
>
> *(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.*

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

7. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tokunaga et al. (Pub. No.: US 6,630,796 B2).

With respect to claim 9, Tokunaga et al. discloses, in Figs. 1 and 7, a method of aging a plasma display panel having a scan electrode [Y1, ..., Yn], a sustain electrode [X1, ..., Xn], and a data electrode [D1, ..., Dm]; said method comprising performing an aging discharge by applying a voltage having an alternate voltage component [Vs] at least between the scan electrode and the sustain electrode; wherein a leading edge of a waveform of voltage applied to the scan electrode (see Fig. 7, re. ROW ELECTRODE Y) has a gradually ascending slope, and a trailing edge of a waveform of voltage applied to the sustain electrode (see Fig. 7, re. ROW ELECTRODE X) has a gradually descending slope.

With respect to claim 10, Tokunaga et al. discloses, in Figs. 1 and 7, a method of aging a plasma display panel having a scan electrode [Y1, ..., Yn], a sustain electrode [X1, ..., Xn], and a data electrode [D1, ..., Dm]; said method comprising performing an aging discharge by applying a voltage having an alternate voltage component at least between the scan electrode and the sustain electrode; wherein the aging discharge where the scan electrode acts as an anode and the sustain electrode acts as a cathode (having a discharge DS2; see Fig. 7) is weaker than the aging discharge where the scan electrode acts as a cathode and the sustain electrode acts as an anode (having a discharge DS1; see Fig. 7).

Citation of relevant prior art

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Prior art Rhee (U.S. Patent No. 6,975,286 B2) discloses a method for aging process in PDP;

Prior art Ide et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,337,673 B1) discloses a driving plasma display device;

Prior art Amemiya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,163) discloses a method of driving plasma display device; and

Prior art Amemiya (U.S. Patent No. 6,037,916) discloses a plasma display device and a driving method therefor.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM -4:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

12/10/2006

THUY V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER